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Message Text

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73
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W
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P 090400Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8500

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 2512

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD), NZ
SUBJECT: PM KIRK PRESS STATEMENT

1. FOL PRESS STATEMENT RELEASED BY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOL PRESIDENT NIXON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO RESIGN. QUOTE

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT PROPOSE TO COMMENT ON THE REASONS BEHIND PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO RESIGN. THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, HOWEVER, HAD CAST A SHADOW NOT JUST OVER THE UNITED STATES BUT MUCH MORE WIDELY IN THE WORLD. THERE WOULD BE A FEELING OF RELIEF IN MANY COUNTRIES THAT THE ATTENTION AND ENERGIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHICH HAD INEVITABLY BEEN TURNED INWARD OVER RECENT MONTHS, COULD NOW BE DIRECTED ONCE AGAIN TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF PRESSING WORLD PROBLEMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR ITS GREAT INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. FACING UP TO THE CHANGED REALITIES A NEW SET OF RELATIONSHIPS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS, BRINGING BETTER PROSPECTS FOR CONFIDENCE, COOPERATION AND PEACE.
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"WHAT THE WORLD NOW NEEDS", THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, "IS FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND ITS IMAGINATIVE AND INNOVATIVE INFLUENCE INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY FIELDS. I COMMENTED ALMOST A YEAR AGO THAT THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WOULD TAKE A TOLL OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC OR MONETARY MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE INITIATED BY THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS BEEN BORNE OUT BY EVENTS. IN TRADE, INFLATION AND MONETARY MATTERS, NOT TO MENTION ENERGY POLICY, THE WORLD ECONOMY STANDS IN GREAT NEED OF THE KIND OF IMAGINATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND GENEROUS INITIATIVES WHICH THE UNITED STATES, SOMETIMES ALONE AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS, HAS SO OFTEN DISPLAYED IN THE PAST. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ARE READY TO ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE AGAIN. ACTIVE AND ENLIGHTENED POLICIES BY THE UNITED STATES IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CAN NOW MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC DECLINE AND A NEW AND PROSPEROUS WORLD ORDER BASED ON THE WILLING COOPERATION OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE GENNERAL GOOD."

MR. KIRK SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ASSURING HIM OF THE CONTINUED COOPERATION OF THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT AND THE LASTING ADMIRATION OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND FOR ALL THAT WAS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND TO RELATIONS AMONG COUNTRIES EXTERNALLY. HE WOULD EXPRESS THE CONVICTION THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION WOULD ACCEPT WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES CONFRONTING IT AND HE WOULD ASSURE THE PRESIDENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S FULL SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR. END QUOTE.
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